

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MICHAEL ZECH and DAWN ZECH,
Husband and Wife

Plaintiffs,

v.

MONSANTO COMPANY,

Defendant.

No.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

JURY DEMAND

COME NOW Plaintiffs Michael Zech and Dawn Zech, a married couple, through their attorneys of record, Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender, PS, and Sims Weymuller and Elizabeth McLafferty, for causes of action against the above-named Defendant, and hereby allege as follows:

I. PARTIES

Plaintiff

1.1. Plaintiffs resides in Grapeview, Washington. On information and belief, Plaintiff Michael Zech was exposed to Roundup[®] containing the active ingredient glyphosate and the surfactant polyethoxylated tallow amine ("POEA") in Washington for approximately 25 years.

1.2. As a direct and proximate result of long-term exposure to Roundup[®], plaintiff was diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in or around July 2018.

Defendants

1.3. Defendant Monsanto Company ("Monsanto") is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

1.4. Defendant advertises and sells goods, specifically Roundup[®], in the State of Washington.

1.5. Defendant transacted and conducted business within the State of Washington that relates to the allegations in this complaint.

1.6. Defendant derived substantial revenue from goods and products used in the State of Washington.

1.7. Defendant expected or should have expected its acts to have consequences within the State of Washington.

1.8. Defendant engaged in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, testing, packaging, marketing, distributing, labeling, and/or selling Roundup[®].

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2.1. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant and this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs and, because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

2.2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391; at all times material, plaintiff was a resident of Washington State and Defendants at all times material transacted business in Washington selling, marketing, and/or distributing Roundup[®].

III. FACTS

3.1. In 1970, Defendant Monsanto Company discovered the herbicidal properties of glyphosate and began marketing it in products in 1974 under the brand name Roundup[®]. Roundup[®] is a non-selective herbicide used to kill weeds that commonly compete with the growing of crops. By 2001, glyphosate had become the most-used active ingredient in American agriculture with 85–90 millions of pounds used annually. That number grew to 185 million pounds by 2007.¹ As of 2013, glyphosate was the world's most widely used herbicide.

3.2. Monsanto is a multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation based in St. Louis, Missouri. It is the world's leading producer of glyphosate. As of 2009, Monsanto was the world's leading producer of seeds, accounting for 27% of the world seed market.² The majority of these seeds are of the Roundup Ready[®] brand. The stated advantage of Roundup Ready[®] crops is that they substantially improve a farmer's ability to control weeds, since glyphosate can be sprayed in the fields during the growing season without harming their crops. In 2010, an estimated 70% of corn and cotton, and 90% of soybean fields in the United States were Roundup Ready[®].³

¹ Arthur Grube et al., U.S. Envtl. Prot. Agency, *Pesticides Industry Sales and Usage, 2006-2007 Market Estimates* 14 (2011), available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/market_estimates2007.pdf.

² ETC Group, *Who Will Control the Green Economy?* 22 (2011), available at http://www.etcgroup.org/files/publication/pdf_file/ETC_wwctge_4web_Dec2011.pdf.

³ William Neuman & Andrew Pollack, *Farmers Cope With Roundup-Resistant Weeds*, N.Y. TIMES, May 3, 2010, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/business/energy-environment/04weed.html?pagewan>.

3.3. Monsanto's glyphosate products are registered in 130 countries and approved for use on over 100 different crops.⁴ They are ubiquitous in the environment. Numerous studies confirm that glyphosate is found in rivers, streams, and groundwater in agricultural areas where Roundup[®] is used.⁵ It has been found in food,⁶ in the urine of agricultural workers,⁷ and even in the urine of urban dwellers that are not in direct contact with glyphosate.⁸ On March 20, 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer ("IARC"), an agency of the World Health Organization ("WHO"), issued an evaluation of several herbicides, including glyphosate. That evaluation was based, in part, on studies of exposures to glyphosate in several countries around the world, and it traces the health implications from exposure to glyphosate since 2001.

3.4. On July 29, 2015, IARC issued the formal monograph relating to glyphosate. In that monograph, the IARC Working Group provides a thorough review of the numerous studies and data relating to glyphosate exposure in humans.

3.5. The IARC Working Group classified glyphosate as a Group 2A herbicide, which means that it is probably carcinogenic to humans. The IARC Working Group

⁴ Monsanto, Backgrounder-History of Monsanto's Glyphosate Herbicides (Sep. 2, 2015), available at <http://www.monsantoglobal.com/global/au/products/pages/roundup.aspx>

⁵ See U.S. Geological Survey, *USGS Technical Announcement: Widely Used Herbicide Commonly Found in Rain and Streams in the Mississippi River Basin* (2011), available at <https://archive.usgs.gov/archive/sites/www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp-ID=2909.html>; see also U.S. Envtl. Prot. Agency, *Technical Factsheet on: Glyphosate*, available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pdfs/factsheets/soc/tech/glyphosa.pdf>.

⁶ Thomas Bohn et al., *Compositional Differences in Soybeans on the Market: Glyphosate Accumulates in Roundup Ready GM Soybeans*, 153 FOOD CHEMISTRY 207 (2013), available at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308814613019201>.

⁷ John F. Acquavella et al., *Glyphosate Biomonitoring for Farmers and Their Families: Results from the Farm Family Exposure Study*, 112(3) ENVTL. HEALTH PERSPECTIVES 321 (2004), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1241861/pdf/ehp0112-000321.pdf>; Kathryn Z. Guyton et al., *Carcinogenicity of Tetrachlorvinphos, Parathion, Malathion, Diazinon & Glyphosate*, 112 IARC Monographs 76, section 5.4 (2015), available at [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(15\)70134-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(15)70134-8).

⁸ Dirk Brändli & Sandra Reinacher, *Herbicides found in Human Urine*, 1 ITHAKA JOURNAL 270 (2012), available at <http://www.ithaka-journal.net/druckversionen/e052012-herbicides-urine.pdf>.

1 concluded that the cancers most associated with glyphosate exposure are non-Hodgkin's
2 lymphoma and other hematopoietic cancers, including lymphocytic lymphoma/chronic
3 lymphocytic leukemia, B-cell lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.⁹

4 3.6. The IARC evaluation is significant. It confirms what has been believed for
5 years: that glyphosate is toxic to humans.

6 3.7. Nevertheless, Monsanto, since it began selling Roundup[®], has represented it
7 as safe to humans and the environment. Indeed, Monsanto has repeatedly proclaimed and
8 continues to proclaim to the world, and particularly to United States consumers, that
9 glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup[®], create no unreasonable risks to human
10 health or to the environment.

11
12 **Registration of Herbicides under Federal Law**

13 3.8. The manufacture, formulation, and distribution of herbicides, such as
14 Roundup[®], are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
15 ("FIFRA" or "Act"), 7 U.S.C. § 136 *et seq.* FIFRA requires that all pesticides be registered
16 with the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") prior to their distribution, sale, or use,
17 except as described by the Act. 7 U.S.C. § 136a(a).

18 3.9. Because pesticides are toxic to plants, animals, and humans, at least to some
19 degree, the EPA requires as part of the registration process, among other things, a variety of
20 tests to evaluate the potential for exposure to pesticides, toxicity to people and other potential
21 non-target organisms, and other adverse effects on the environment. Registration by the EPA,
22 however, is not an assurance or finding of safety. The determination the EPA must make in
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26 ⁹ See Guyton et al., *Carcinogenicity of Tetrachlorvinphos, Parathion, Malathion, Diazinon & Glyphosate, supra.*

1 registering or re-registering a product is not that the product is “safe,” but rather that use of
2 the product in accordance with its label directions “will not generally cause unreasonable
3 adverse effects on the environment.” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(D).

4 3.10. FIFRA defines “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment” to mean
5 “any unreasonable risk to man or the environment, taking into account the economic, social,
6 and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide.” 7 U.S.C. § 136(bb). FIFRA
7 thus requires the EPA to make a risk/benefit analysis in determining whether a registration
8 should be granted or allowed to continue to be sold in commerce.

9
10 3.11. The EPA and the State of Washington registered Roundup[®] for distribution,
11 sale, and manufacture in the United States and the State of Washington.

12 3.12. FIFRA generally requires that the registrant, Monsanto in the case of
13 Roundup[®], conduct the health and safety testing of pesticide products. The EPA has
14 protocols governing the conduct of tests required for registration and the laboratory practices
15 that must be followed in conducting these tests. The data produced by the registrant must be
16 submitted to the EPA for review and evaluation. The government is not required, nor is it
17 able, however, to perform the product tests that are required of the manufacturer.

18
19 3.13. The evaluation of each pesticide product distributed, sold, or manufactured is
20 completed at the time the product is initially registered. The data necessary for registration of
21 a pesticide has changed over time. The EPA is now in the process of re-evaluating all
22 pesticide products through a Congressionally-mandated process called “re-registration.” 7
23 U.S.C. § 136a-1. In order to reevaluate these pesticides, the EPA is demanding the
24 completion of additional tests and the submission of data for the EPA’s review and
25 evaluation.
26

3.14. In the case of glyphosate, and therefore Roundup[®], the EPA had planned on releasing its preliminary risk assessment—in relation to the registration process – no later than July 2015. The EPA completed its review of glyphosate in early 2015, but it delayed releasing the risk assessment pending further review in light of the WHO’s health-related findings.

Scientific Fraud Underlying the Marketing and Sale of Glyphosate/Roundup[®]

3.15. Based on early studies showing that glyphosate could cause cancer in laboratory animals, the EPA originally classified glyphosate as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group C) in 1985. After pressure from Monsanto, including contrary studies it provided to the EPA, the EPA changed its classification to evidence of non-carcinogenicity in humans (Group E) in 1991. In so classifying glyphosate, however, the EPA made clear that the designation did not mean the chemical does not cause cancer: “It should be emphasized, however, that designation of an agent in Group E is based on the available evidence at the time of evaluation and should not be interpreted as a definitive conclusion that the agent will not be a carcinogen under any circumstances.”¹⁰

3.16. On two occasions, the EPA found that the laboratories hired by Monsanto to test the toxicity of its Roundup[®] products for registration purposes committed fraud.

3.17. In the first instance, Monsanto, in seeking initial registration of Roundup[®] by the EPA, hired Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories (“IBT”) to perform and evaluate pesticide

¹⁰ U.S. Env’tl. Prot. Agency, *Memorandum, Subject: SECOND Peer Review of Glyphosate I* (1991), available at https://archive.org/stream/SecondPeerReviewOfGlyphosateEPAOct301991/Second%20Peer%20Review%20of%20Glyphosate%20-%20EPA%20-%20%20Oct%2030,%201991_djvu.txt.

1 toxicology studies relating to Roundup[®].¹¹ IBT performed about thirty tests on glyphosate
 2 and glyphosate-containing products, including nine of the fifteen residue studies needed to
 3 register Roundup[®].

4 3.18. In 1976, the United States Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) performed
 5 an inspection of IBT that revealed discrepancies between the raw data and the final report
 6 relating to the toxicological impacts of glyphosate. The EPA subsequently audited IBT; it too
 7 found the toxicology studies conducted for the Roundup[®] herbicide to be invalid.¹² An EPA
 8 reviewer stated, after finding “routine falsification of data” at IBT, that it was “hard to
 9 believe the scientific integrity of the studies when they said they took specimens of the uterus
 10 from male rabbits.”¹³

12 3.19. Three top executives of IBT were convicted of fraud in 1983.

13 3.20. In the second incident of data falsification, Monsanto hired Craven
 14 Laboratories in 1991 to perform pesticide and herbicide studies, including for Roundup[®]. In
 15 that same year, the owner of Craven Laboratories and three of its employees were indicted,
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19
 20 ¹¹ Monsanto, *Background, Testing Fraud: IBT and Craven Laboratories* (June, 2005), available at
https://monsanto.com/app/uploads/2017/06/ibt_craven_bkg.pdf.

21 ¹² U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, *Summary of the IBT Review Program Office of Pesticide Programs*
 (1983), available at
<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/91014ULV.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=1981+Thru+1985&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C81thru85%5CTxt%5C00000022%5C91014ULV.txt&User=ANO NYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL>.

24 ¹³ Marie-Monique Robin, *The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption and the Control of the*
 25 *World's Food Supply* (2011) (citing U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, *Data Validation, Memo from K. Locke,*
 26 *Toxicology Branch, to R. Taylor, Registration Branch*. Washington, D.C. (August 9, 1978)).

1 and later convicted, of fraudulent laboratory practices in the testing of pesticides and
2 herbicides.¹⁴

3 3.21. Despite the falsity of the tests that underlie its registration, within a few years
4 of its launch, Monsanto was marketing Roundup[®] in 115 countries.

5 **The Importance of Roundup[®] to Monsanto's Market Dominance Profits**

6 3.22. The success of Roundup[®] was key to Monsanto's continued reputation and
7 dominance in the marketplace. Largely due to the success of Roundup[®] sales, Monsanto's
8 agriculture division was out-performing its chemicals division's operating income, and that
9 gap increased yearly. But with its patent for glyphosate expiring in the United States in the
10 year 2000, Monsanto needed a strategy to maintain its Roundup[®] market dominance and to
11 ward off impending competition.
12

13 3.23. In response, Monsanto began the development and sale of genetically
14 engineered Roundup Ready[®] seeds in 1996. Since Roundup Ready[®] crops are resistant to
15 glyphosate; farmers can spray Roundup[®] onto their fields during the growing season without
16 harming the crop. This allowed Monsanto to expand its market for Roundup[®] even further;
17 by 2000, Monsanto's biotechnology seeds were planted on more than 80 million acres
18 worldwide and nearly 70% of American soybeans were planted from Roundup Ready[®] seeds.
19 It also secured Monsanto's dominant share of the glyphosate/Roundup[®] market through a
20 marketing strategy that coupled proprietary Roundup Ready[®] seeds with continued sales of
21 its Roundup[®] herbicide.
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26 ¹⁴ Dr. Roger A. Novak, *The Long Arm of the Lab Laws*, (November, 2001) available at
<https://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/archive/tcaw/10/i11/html/11regs.html>.

3.24. Through a three-pronged strategy of increased production, decreased prices, and by coupling with Roundup Ready® seeds, Roundup® became Monsanto's most profitable product. In 2000, Roundup® accounted for almost \$2.8 billion in sales, outselling other herbicides by a margin of five to one, and accounting for close to half of Monsanto's revenue.¹⁵ Today, glyphosate remains one of the world's largest herbicides by sales volume.

Monsanto has known for decades that it falsely advertises the safety of Roundup®

3.25. In 1996, the New York Attorney General ("NYAG") filed a lawsuit against Monsanto based on its false and misleading advertising of Roundup products. Specifically, the lawsuit challenged Monsanto's general representations that its spray-on glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup, were "safer **than table salt**" and "practically **non-toxic**" to mammals, birds, and fish. Among the representations the NYAG found deceptive and misleading about the human and environmental safety of Roundup are the following:

- a) Remember that environmentally friendly Roundup herbicide is biodegradable. It won't build up in the soil so you can use Roundup with confidence along customers' driveways, sidewalks and fences ...
- b) And remember that Roundup is biodegradable and won't build up in the soil. That will give you the environmental confidence you need to use Roundup everywhere you've got a weed, brush, edging or trimming problem.
- c) Roundup biodegrades into naturally occurring elements.
- d) Remember that versatile Roundup herbicide stays where you put it. That means there's no washing or leaching to harm customers' shrubs or other desirable vegetation.

¹⁵ David Barboza, *The Power of Roundup; A Weed Killer Is A Block for Monsanto to Build On*, N.Y. Times, Aug. 2, 2001, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/08/02/business/the-power-of-roundup-a-weed-killer-is-a-block-for-monsanto-to-build-on.html>.

e) This non-residual herbicide will not wash or leach in the soil. It ... stays where you apply it.

f) You can apply Roundup with “confidence because it will stay where you put it” it bonds tightly to soil particles, preventing leaching. Then, soon after application, soil microorganism’s biodegrade Roundup into natural products.

g) Glyphosate is less toxic to rats than table salt following acute oral ingestion.

h) Glyphosate's safety margin is much greater than required. It has over a 1,000-fold safety margin in food and over a 700-fold safety margin for workers who manufacture it or use it.

i) You can feel good about using herbicides by Monsanto. They carry a toxicity category rating of 'practically non-toxic' as it pertains to mammals, birds and fish.

j) “Roundup can be used where kids and pets will play and breaks down into natural material.” This ad depicts a person with his head in the ground and a pet dog standing in an area which has been treated with Roundup[®].¹⁶

3.26. On November 19, 1996, Monsanto entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance with NYAG, in which Monsanto agreed, among other things, “to cease and desist from publishing or broadcasting any advertisements [in New York] that represent, directly or by implication” that:

a) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are safe, non-toxic, harmless or free from risk.

b) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof manufactured, formulated, distributed or sold by Monsanto are biodegradable.

c) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof stay where they are applied under all circumstances and will not move through the environment by any means.

¹⁶ Attorney General of the State of New York, in the Matter of Monsanto Company, Assurance of Discontinuance Pursuant to Executive Law § 63(15) (Nov. 1996).

d) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are "good" for the environment or are "known for their environmental characteristics."

e) glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are safer or less toxic than common consumer products other than herbicides.

f) its glyphosate-containing products or any component thereof might be classified as "practically non-toxic."

3.27. Monsanto did not alter its advertising in the same manner in any state other than New York, and on information and belief still has not done so today.

3.28. In 2009, France's highest court ruled that Monsanto had not told the truth about the safety of Roundup®. The French court affirmed an earlier judgment that Monsanto had falsely advertised its herbicide Roundup® as "biodegradable" and that it "left the soil clean."¹⁷

Classifications and Assessments of Glyphosate

3.29. The IARC process for the classification of glyphosate followed the stringent procedures for the evaluation of a chemical agent. Over time, the IARC Monograph program has reviewed 980 agents. Of those reviewed, it has determined 116 agents to be Group 1 (Known Human Carcinogens); 73 agents to be Group 2A (Probable Human Carcinogens); 287 agents to be Group 2B (Possible Human Carcinogens); 503 agents to be Group 3 (Not Classified); and one agent to be Probably Not Carcinogenic.

¹⁷ Monsanto Guilty in 'False Ad' Row, BBC, Oct. 15, 2009, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8308903.stm>.

1 3.30. The established procedure for IARC Monograph evaluations is described in
 2 the IARC Programme's Preamble.¹⁸ Evaluations are performed by panels of international
 3 experts, selected on the basis of their expertise and the absence of actual or apparent conflicts
 4 of interest.

5 3.31. One year before the Monograph meeting, the meeting is announced and there
 6 is a call both for data and for experts. Eight months before the Monograph meeting, the
 7 Working Group membership is selected and the sections of the Monograph are developed by
 8 the Working Group members. One month prior to the Monograph meeting, the call for data is
 9 closed and the various draft sections are distributed among Working Group members for
 10 review and comment. Finally, at the Monograph meeting, the Working Group finalizes
 11 review of all literature, evaluates the evidence in each category, and completes the overall
 12 evaluation. Within two weeks after the Monograph meeting, the summary of the Working
 13 Group findings is published in *The Lancet Oncology*, and within a year after the meeting, the
 14 final Monograph is finalized and published.

17 3.32. In assessing an agent, the IARC Working Group reviews the following
 18 information: (a) human, experimental, and mechanistic data; (b) all pertinent
 19 epidemiological studies and cancer bioassays; and (c) representative mechanistic data. The
 20 studies must be publicly available and have sufficient detail for meaningful review, and
 21 reviewers cannot be associated with the underlying study.
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26 ¹⁸ World Health Org., *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Preamble* (2006),
 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Preamble/CurrentPreamble.pdf>.

1 3.33. In March 2015, IARC reassessed glyphosate. The summary published in *The*
2 *Lancet Oncology* reported that glyphosate is a Group 2A agent and probably carcinogenic in
3 humans.

4 3.34. On July 29, 2015, IARC issued its Monograph for glyphosate in Volume 112.
5 For the volume that assessed glyphosate, a Working Group of 17 experts from 11 countries
6 met at IARC from March 3–10, 2015, to assess the carcinogenicity of certain herbicides,
7 including glyphosate. The March meeting culminated nearly a one-year review and
8 preparation by the IARC Secretariat and the Working Group, including a comprehensive
9 review of the latest available scientific evidence. According to published procedures, the
10 Working Group considered “reports that have been published or accepted for publication in
11 the openly available scientific literature” as well as “data from governmental reports that are
12 publicly available.”
13

14 3.35. The studies considered the following exposure groups: occupational exposure
15 of farmers and tree nursery workers in the United States, forestry workers in Canada and
16 Finland, and municipal weed-control workers in the United Kingdom; and para-occupational
17 exposure in farming families.
18

19 3.36. Glyphosate was identified as the second-most used household herbicide in the
20 United States for weed control between 2001 and 2007 and the most heavily used herbicide
21 in the world in 2012.
22

23 3.37. Exposure pathways are identified as air (especially during spraying), water,
24 and food. Community exposure to glyphosate is widespread and found in soil, air, surface
25 water, and groundwater, as well as in food.
26

1 3.38. The assessment of the IARC Working Group identified several case control
2 studies of occupational exposure in the United States, Canada, and Sweden. These studies
3 show a human health concern from agricultural and other work-related exposure to
4 glyphosate.

5 3.39. The IARC Working Group found an increased risk between exposure to
6 glyphosate and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma ("NHL") and several subtypes of NHL, and the
7 increased risk persisted after adjustment for other pesticides.

8 3.40. The IARC Working Group also found that glyphosate caused DNA and
9 chromosomal damage in human cells. One study in community residents reported increases
10 in blood markers of chromosomal damage (micronuclei) after glyphosate formulations were
11 sprayed.

12 3.41. In male CD-1 mice, glyphosate induced a positive trend in the incidence of a
13 rare tumor, renal tubule carcinoma. A second study reported a positive trend for
14 haemangiosarcoma in male mice. Glyphosate increased pancreatic islet-cell adenoma in male
15 rats in two studies. A glyphosate formulation promoted skin tumors in an initiation-
16 promotion study in mice.

17 3.42. The IARC Working Group also noted that glyphosate has been detected in the
18 urine of agricultural workers, indicating absorption. Soil microbes degrade glyphosate to
19 aminomethylphosphoric acid (AMPA). Blood AMPA detection after exposure suggests
20 intestinal microbial metabolism in humans.

21 3.43. The IARC Working Group further found that glyphosate and glyphosate
22 formulations induced DNA and chromosomal damage in mammals, and in human and animal
23 cells in utero.

3.44. The IARC Working Group also noted genotoxic, hormonal, and enzymatic effects in mammals exposed to glyphosate.¹⁹ Essentially, glyphosate inhibits the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids, which leads to several metabolic disturbances, including the inhibition of protein and secondary product biosynthesis and general metabolic disruption.

3.45. The IARC Working Group also reviewed an Agricultural Health Study, consisting of a prospective cohort of 57,311 licensed pesticide applicators in Iowa and North Carolina.²⁰ While this study differed from others in that it was based on a self-administered questionnaire, the results support an association between glyphosate exposure and Multiple Myeloma, Hairy Cell Leukemia (HCL), and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), in addition to several other cancers.

Other Earlier Findings about Glyphosate's Dangers to Human Health

3.46. The EPA has a technical fact sheet, as part of its Drinking Water and Health, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations publication, relating to glyphosate. This technical fact sheet predates the IARC March 20, 2015, evaluation. The fact sheet describes the release patterns for glyphosate as follows:

Release Patterns

Glyphosate is released to the environment in its use as an herbicide for controlling woody and herbaceous weeds on forestry, right-of-way, cropped and non-cropped sites. These sites may be around water and in wetlands.

It may also be released to the environment during its manufacture, formulation, transport, storage, disposal, and cleanup, and from spills. Since

¹⁹ Guyton et al., *Carcinogenicity of Tetrachlorvinphos, Parathion, Malathion, Diazinon & Glyphosate*, *supra* at 77.

²⁰ Anneclaire J. De Roos et al., *Cancer Incidence Among Glyphosate-Exposed Pesticide Applicators in the Agricultural Health Study*, 113 *Env'tl Health Perspectives* 49-54 (2005), available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1253709/pdf/ehp0113-000049.pdf>.

glyphosate is not a listed chemical in the Toxics Release Inventory, data on releases during its manufacture and handling are not available.

Occupational workers and home gardeners may be exposed to glyphosate by inhalation and dermal contact during spraying, mixing, and cleanup. They may also be exposed by touching soil and plants to which glyphosate was applied. Occupational exposure may also occur during glyphosate's manufacture, transport storage, and disposal.²¹

3.47. In 1995, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides reported that in California, the state with the most comprehensive program for reporting of pesticide-caused illness, glyphosate was the third most commonly-reported cause of pesticide illness among agricultural workers.²²

The Toxicity of Other Ingredients in Roundup®

3.48. In addition to the toxicity of the active ingredient, glyphosate, several studies support the hypothesis that the glyphosate-based formulation in Defendant's Roundup® products is more dangerous and toxic than glyphosate alone. Indeed, as early as 1991, available evidence demonstrated that glyphosate formulations were significantly more toxic than glyphosate alone.²³

3.49. In 2002, a study by Julie Marc entitled "Pesticide Roundup Provokes Cell Division Dysfunction at the Level of CDK 1/ Cyclin B Activation," revealed Roundup®

²¹ U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, *Technical Factsheet on: Glyphosate*, *supra*.

²² Caroline Cox, *Glyphosate, Part 2: Human Exposure and Ecological Effects*, 15 J. PESTICIDE REFORM 4 (1995); W.S. Peas et al., *Preventing pesticide-related illness in California agriculture: Strategies and priorities. Environmental Health Policy Program Report*, Univ. of Cal. School of Public Health, Calif. Policy Seminar (1993).

²³ Martinez, T.T. and K. Brown, *Oral and pulmonary toxicology of the surfactant used in Roundup herbicide*, PROC. WEST. PHARMACOL. SOC. 34:43-46 (1991).

1 causes delays in the cell cycles of sea urchins but that the same concentrations of glyphosate
2 alone were ineffective and did not alter cell cycles.²⁴

3 3.50. A 2004 study by Marc and others, entitled “Glyphosate-based pesticides affect
4 cell cycle regulation,” demonstrated a molecular link between glyphosate-based products and
5 cell cycle dysregulation. The researchers noted that “[c]ell cycle dysregulation is a hallmark
6 of tumor cells and human cancer. Failure in the cell cycle checkpoints leads genomic
7 instability and subsequent development of cancer from the initial affected cell.” Further,
8 “[s]ince cell cycle disorders such as cancer result from dysfunction of a unique cell, it was of
9 interest to evaluate the threshold dose of glyphosate affecting the cells.”²⁵

11 3.51. In 2005, a study by Francisco Peixoto, entitled “Comparative effects of the
12 Roundup and glyphosate on mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation,” demonstrated that
13 Roundup[®]’s effects on rat liver mitochondria are far more toxic than equal concentrations of
14 glyphosate alone. The Peixoto study further suggested that the harmful effects of Roundup[®]
15 on mitochondrial bioenergetics could not be exclusively attributed to glyphosate but could be
16 the result of result of other chemicals, such as the surfactant POEA, or the alternative, due to
17 potential synergic effect between glyphosate and other ingredients in the Roundup[®]
18 formulation.²⁶

22 ²⁴ Julie Marc, et al., *Pesticide Roundup Provokes Cell Division Dysfunction at the Level of CDK1/Cyclin B*
23 *Activation*, 15 CHEM. RES. TOXICOL. 326-331 (2002), available at
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/tx015543g>.

24 ²⁵ Julie Marc, et al., *Glyphosate-based pesticides affect cell cycle regulation*, 96 BIOLOGY OF
25 THE CELL 245, 245-249 (2004), available at
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1016/j.biocel.2003.11.010/epdf>.

26 ²⁶ Francisco Peixoto, *Comparative effects of the Roundup and glyphosate on mitochondrial oxidative*
phosphorylation, 61 CHEMOSPHERE 1115, 1122 (2005), available at [http://www.ask-](http://www.ask-force.org/web/Seralini/Peixoto-Comparative-Effects-RR-Glyphosate-2006.pdf)
[force.org/web/Seralini/Peixoto-Comparative-Effects-RR-Glyphosate-2006.pdf](http://www.ask-force.org/web/Seralini/Peixoto-Comparative-Effects-RR-Glyphosate-2006.pdf).

3.52. In 2009, Nora Benachour and Gilles-Eric Seralini published a study examining the effects of Roundup[®] and glyphosate that were far below agricultural recommendations, corresponding with low levels of residue in food. The researchers ultimately concluded that supposed “inert” ingredients, and possibly POEA, alter human cell permeability and amplify toxicity of glyphosate alone. The researchers further suggested that assessments of the glyphosate toxicity should account for the presence of adjuvants or additional chemicals used in the formulation of the complete pesticide. The study confirmed that the adjuvants present in Roundup[®] are not, in fact, inert and that Roundup[®] is potentially far more toxic than its active ingredient glyphosate alone.²⁷

Recent Worldwide Bans on Roundup[®]/Glyphosate

3.53. Several countries around the world have instituted bans on the sale of Roundup[®] and other glyphosate-containing herbicides, both before and since IARC first announced its assessment for glyphosate in March 2015, and more countries undoubtedly will follow suit as the dangers of the use of Roundup[®] are more widely known. The Netherlands issued a ban on all glyphosate-based herbicides in April 2014, including Roundup[®], which took effect by the end of 2015. In issuing the ban, the Dutch Parliament member who introduced the successful legislation stated: “Agricultural pesticides in user-friendly packaging are sold in abundance to private persons. In garden centers, Roundup[®] is promoted as harmless, but unsuspecting customers have no idea what the risks of this product

²⁷ Nora Benachour, et al., *Glyphosate Formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells*, 22 CHEM. RES. TOXICOL. 97-105 (2008), available at <https://big.assets.huffingtonpost.com/france.pdf>.

are. Especially children are sensitive to toxic substances and should therefore not be exposed to it.”²⁸

3.54. The Brazilian Public Prosecutor in the Federal District requested that the Brazilian Justice Department suspend the use of glyphosate.²⁹

3.55. France banned the private sale of Roundup® and glyphosate following the IARC assessment for glyphosate.³⁰

3.56. Bermuda banned both the private and commercial sale of glyphosates, including Roundup®. The Bermuda government explained its ban as follows: “Following a recent scientific study carried out by a leading cancer agency, the importation of weed spray ‘Roundup’ has been suspended.”³¹

3.57. The Sri Lankan government banned the private and commercial use of glyphosates, particularly out of concern that glyphosate has been linked to fatal kidney disease in agricultural workers.³²

²⁸ Holland’s Parliament Bans Glyphosate Herbicides, The Real Agenda, April 14, 2014, available at <https://real-agenda.com/hollands-parliament-bans-glyphosate-herbicides/>.

²⁹ Christina Sarich, *Brazil’s Public Prosecutor Wants to Ban Monsanto’s Chemicals Following Recent Glyphosate-Cancer Link*, GLOBAL RESEARCH, MAY 14, 2015, available at <https://www.globalresearch.ca/brazils-public-prosecutor-wants-to-ban-monsantos-chemicals-following-recent-glyphosate-cancer-link/5449440>; see Ministério Público Federal, *MPF/DF reforça pedido para que glifosato seja banido do Mercado nacional*, April 14, 2015, available at http://noticias.pgr.mpf.mp.br/noticias/noticias-do-site/copy_of_meio-ambiente-e-patrimonio-cultural/mpf-df-reforca-pedido-para-que-glifosato-seja-banido-do-mercado-nacional.

³⁰ Zoe Schlanger, *France Bans Sales of Monsanto’s Roundup in Garden Centers, 3 Months After U.N. Calls it ‘Probable Carcinogen’*, Newsweek, June 15, 2015, available at <https://www.newsweek.com/france-bans-sale-monsantos-roundup-garden-centers-after-un-names-it-probable-343311>.

³¹ *Minister: Importation of Roundup Suspended*, Bernews, May 11, 2015, available at <http://bernews.com/2015/05/importation-weed-spray-round-suspended/>.

³² *Sri Lanka’s New President Puts Immediate Ban on Glyphosate Herbicides*, Sustainable Pulse, May 25, 2015, available at <https://sustainablepulse.com/2015/05/25/sri-lankas-new-president-puts-immediate-ban-on-glyphosate-herbicides/#.XBgQINtKgc0>.

1 3.58. The government of Columbia announced its ban on using Roundup[®] and
 2 glyphosate to destroy illegal plantations of coca, the raw ingredient for cocaine, because of
 3 the WHO's finding that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic.³³

4 **Plaintiff's Exposure to Roundup[®]**

5 3.59. Michael Zech used Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer as an employee of a
 6 Christmas tree farm in Washington State for approximately six weeks a year for an average
 7 of three days per week for eight hours at a time from approximately 1979-1991.
 8

9 3.60. During this timeframe, Mr. Zech primarily applied Roundup[®] Weed & Grass
 10 Killer with a backpack sprayer.

11 3.61. During this timeframe, Mr. Zech was often and regularly exposed to
 12 Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer on his skin when applying Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer,
 13 including on his back, shoulder and arms due to leakage of the product.
 14

15 3.62. Michael Zech purchased Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer for approximately
 16 25 years at his personal residence. Mr. Zech purchased Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer in its
 17 liquid form and applied it in Washington State.

18 3.63. Mr. Zech applied Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer with a hand sprayer and
 19 was often and regularly exposed to Roundup[®] on his skin, including on his hands and feet.
 20

21 3.64. On or around July 2018, doctors diagnosed Michael Zech with diffuse large
 22 B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. As a result of his injury, Mr. Zech underwent
 23 chemotherapy, had a bone marrow biopsy and additional medical care.
 24
 25

26 ³³ *Columbia to ban coca spraying herbicide glyphosate*, BBC, May 10, 2015, available at
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-32677411>.

1 3.65. During the entire time Michael Zech was exposed to Roundup[®] Weed & Grass
 2 Killer, he did not know that exposure to Roundup[®] Weed & Grass Killer was injurious to his
 3 health or the health of others.
 4

5 **IV. TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS** 6 **DISCOVERY RULE TOLLING**

7 4.1. The running of any statute of limitations has been tolled by reason of
 8 Defendant's fraudulent concealment. Defendant, through its affirmative misrepresentations
 9 and omissions, actively concealed from Plaintiffs the true risks associated with Roundup[®]
 10 and glyphosate.
 11

12 4.2. At all relevant times, Defendant has maintained that Roundup[®] is safe, non-
 13 toxic, and non-carcinogenic.

14 4.3. Even as of July 2016, Defendant continued to represent to the public that
 15 "Regulatory authorities and independent experts around the world have reviewed numerous
 16 long-term/carcinogenicity and genotoxicity studies and agree that there is no evidence that
 17 glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup[®] brand herbicides and other glyphosate-based
 18 herbicides, causes cancer, even at very high doses, and that it is not genotoxic."³⁴
 19

20 4.4. As a result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiffs were unaware, and could not
 21 reasonably know or have learned through reasonable diligence that Roundup[®] and/or
 22 glyphosate contact, exposed Plaintiff Michael Zech to the risks alleged herein and that those
 23 risks were the direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions.
 24

25
 26 ³⁴ Backgrounder – Glyphosate: No Evidence of Carcinogenicity, Updated November 2014, available at
<https://www.monsantoglobal.com/global/jp/products/Documents/no-evidence-of-carcinogenicity.pdf>.

4.5. Furthermore, Defendant is estopped from relying on any statute of limitations because of its fraudulent concealment of the true character, quality and nature of Roundup®. Defendant was under a duty to disclose the true character, quality, and nature of Roundup® because this was non-public information over which Defendant had and continues to have exclusive control, and because Defendant knew that this information was not available to Plaintiffs or to distributors of Roundup®. In addition, Defendant is estopped from relying on any statute of limitations because of its intentional concealment of these facts.

4.6. Plaintiffs had no knowledge that Defendant was engaged in the wrongdoing alleged herein. Because of the fraudulent acts of concealment of wrongdoing by Defendant, Plaintiffs could not have reasonably discovered the wrongdoing at any time prior. Also, the economics of this fraud should be considered. Defendant had the ability to and did spend enormous amounts of money in furtherance of its purpose of marketing, promoting and/or distributing a profitable herbicide, notwithstanding the known or reasonably known risks. Plaintiffs and medical professionals could not have afforded and could not have possibly conducted studies to determine the nature, extent, and identity of related health risks, and were forced to rely on only the Defendant's representations. Accordingly, Defendant is precluded by the discovery rule and/or the doctrine of fraudulent concealment from relying upon any statute of limitations.

V. CAUSE OF ACTION

CLAIM ONE
WASHINGTON PRODUCT LIABILITY ACT

5.1. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations of this Complaint contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

1 5.2. At all times relevant to this litigation, Defendant engaged in the business of
2 testing, developing, designing, manufacturing, marketing, selling, distributing, and
3 promoting Roundup[®] products.

4 5.3. At all times relevant to this litigation, Defendant designed, researched,
5 developed, manufactured, produced, tested, assembled, labeled, advertised, promoted,
6 marketed, sold, and distributed the Roundup[®] products used by Plaintiff Michael Zech as
7 described above.
8

9 5.4. At all times relevant to this litigation, Defendant's Roundup[®] products were
10 expected to reach and did reach the intended consumers, handlers, and users or other
11 persons coming into contact with these products in Washington and throughout the United
12 States, including Plaintiff Michael Zech, without substantial change in their condition as
13 designed, manufactured, sold, distributed, labeled, and marketed by Defendant.
14

15 5.5. In violation of the Washington Products Liability Act ("WPLA"), RCW 7.72,
16 et seq., at all times relevant to this action, at the time Defendant's Roundup[®] products left
17 control of Defendant, they were defective and not reasonably safe. These defects include,
18 but are not limited to, the following:

- 19 i. Defendant is strictly liable to Plaintiff Michael Zech for his injuries and
20 damages because at the time of manufacture, and at the time Defendant's
21 Roundup[®] products left control of Defendant, the likelihood that
22 Defendant's Roundup[®] products would cause injury or damage similar to
23 that suffered by Plaintiff, and the seriousness of such injury or damage had
24 been known by Defendant and outweighed the burden on Defendant to
25 design a product that would have prevented Plaintiff's injuries and damages
26

1 and outweighed the adverse effect that an alternative design that was
2 practical and feasible would have on the usefulness of the subject product.

3 ii. Defendant's Roundup[®] products were unsafe to an extent beyond that which
4 would be contemplated by an ordinary consumer, in one or more of the
5 following particulars: exposure to Roundup[®] and specifically, its active
6 ingredient glyphosate, could result in cancer and other severe illnesses and
7 injuries, making Roundup[®] not reasonably safe when used in the way it is
8 ordinarily used and is dangerous to an extent beyond that which would be
9 contemplated by the ordinary consumer.
10

11 iii. The Roundup[®] products manufactured and/or supplied by Defendant were
12 defective in design in that, an alternative design and/or formulation exists
13 that would prevent severe and permanent injury. Indeed, at the time that
14 Defendant designed its Roundup[®] products, the state of the industry's
15 scientific knowledge was such that a less risky design or formulation was
16 attainable.
17

18 iv. The Roundup[®] products were not reasonably safe in design under the
19 WPLA.

20 v. The Roundup[®] products manufactured and/or supplied by Defendant was
21 not reasonably safe because Defendant did not provide an adequate warning
22 or instruction about the product. At the time the Roundup[®] products left
23 Defendant's control, they possessed dangerous characteristics, and
24 Defendant failed to use reasonable care to provide an adequate warning of
25 such characteristics and their danger to users and handlers of the product.
26

1 The Roundup[®] products are not safe and cause severe and permanent
2 injuries. The Roundup[®] products were not reasonably safe because the
3 warning was inadequate and Defendant could have provided adequate
4 warnings or instructions.

5
6 vi. The Roundup[®] products manufactured and/or supplied by Defendant were
7 not reasonably safe because adequate warnings or manufacturer instructions
8 were not provided after the Roundup[®] products were manufactured and
9 when Defendant learned of, or should have learned of, the dangers
10 connected with the Roundup[®] products.

11 vii. The Roundup[®] products manufactured and/or supplied by Defendant were
12 not reasonably safe because they did not conform to an express warranty
13 made by Defendant regarding the product's safety and fitness for use.
14 Defendant expressly warranted that the Roundup[®] products were safe and fit
15 for their intended purposes, that they were of merchantable quality, that they
16 did not produce any dangerous side effects, that they were adequately tested,
17 and that their Roundup[®] products were safe to human health and the
18 environment, and effective, fit, and proper for their intended use. Defendant
19 did not disclose the material risks that Defendant's Roundup[®] products
20 could cause severe and permanent injury. Defendant's express warranty
21 regarding the Roundup[®] products induced Plaintiff Michael Zech to use the
22 products, and Plaintiff's damage was proximately caused because
23 Defendant's express warranty was untrue. The Roundup[®] products were not
24
25
26

1 reasonably safe because of nonconformity to express warranty under the
2 WPLA.

3 5.6. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant placing its defective Roundup®
4 products into the stream of commerce, Plaintiff Michael Zech has suffered and continues to
5 suffer grave injuries, and has endured physical pain and discomfort, as well as economic
6 hardship, including considerable financial expenses for medical care and treatment. Plaintiff
7 will continue to incur these expenses in the future.
8

9
10 **CLAIM TWO**
BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES

11 5.7. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations of this Complaint
12 contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

13 5.8. At all times relevant to this litigation, Defendant engaged in the business of
14 testing, developing, designing, manufacturing, marketing, selling, distributing, and promoting
15 its Roundup® products, which are defective and unreasonably dangerous to consumers,
16 including Plaintiff Michael Zech, thereby placing Roundup® products into the stream of
17 commerce. These actions were under the ultimate control and supervision of Defendant.
18

19 5.9. Before the time that Plaintiff Michael Zech was exposed to the use of the
20 aforementioned Roundup® products, Defendant impliedly warranted to its consumers—
21 including Plaintiff's employer—that its Roundup® products were of merchantable quality
22 and safe and fit for the use for which they were intended; specifically, as agricultural and
23 horticultural herbicides.
24

25 5.10. Defendant, however, failed to disclose that Roundup® has dangerous
26 propensities when used as intended and that the use of and/or exposure to Roundup® and

1 glyphosate-containing products carries an increased risk of developing severe injuries,
2 including Plaintiff's injuries.

3 5.11. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Michael Zech and/or Plaintiff's
4 employers reasonably relied upon the skill, superior knowledge and judgment of Defendant
5 and upon its implied warranties that the Roundup[®] products were of merchantable quality
6 and fit for their intended purpose or use.
7

8 5.12. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Michael Zech and/or Plaintiff's
9 employer was at all relevant times in privity with Defendant.

10 5.13. Plaintiff Michael Zech is the intended third-party beneficiary of implied
11 warranties made by Defendant to the purchasers of its agricultural and horticultural
12 herbicides, including the company that employed Plaintiff, and as such Plaintiff is entitled
13 to assert this claim.
14

15 5.14. The Roundup[®] products were expected to reach and did in fact reach
16 consumers and users, including Plaintiff Michael Zech, without substantial change in the
17 condition in which they were manufactured and sold by Defendant.

18 5.15. At all times relevant to this litigation, Defendant was aware that consumers
19 and users of its products, including Plaintiff Michael Zech, would use Roundup[®] products
20 as marketed by Defendant, which is to say that Plaintiff was a foreseeable user of
21 Roundup[®].
22

23 5.16. Defendant intended that its Roundup[®] products be used in the manner in
24 which Plaintiff Michael Zech in fact used them and Defendant impliedly warranted each
25 product to be of merchantable quality, safe, and fit for this use, despite the fact that
26 Roundup[®] was not adequately tested or researched.

1 5.17. In reliance upon Defendant's implied warranty, Plaintiff Michael Zech used
2 Roundup[®] as instructed and labeled and in the foreseeable manner intended, recommended,
3 promoted, and marketed by Defendants.

4 5.18. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's employer could have reasonably discovered or
5 known of the risks of serious injury associated with Roundup[®] or glyphosate.

6 5.19. Defendant breached its implied warranty to Plaintiff Michael Zech in that its
7 Roundup[®] products were not of merchantable quality, safe, or fit for their intended use, or
8 adequately tested. Roundup[®] has dangerous propensities when used as intended and can
9 cause serious injuries, including those injuries complained of herein.

10 5.20. The harm caused by Defendant's Roundup[®] products far outweighed their
11 benefit, rendering the products more dangerous than an ordinary consumer or user would
12 expect and more dangerous than alternative products.

13 5.21. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful acts and omissions
14 Plaintiff Michael Zech has suffered severe and permanent physical and emotional injuries.
15 Plaintiff has endured pain and suffering, has suffered economic loss (including significant
16 expenses for medical care and treatment) and will continue to incur these expenses in the
17 future.

18
19
20
21 **CLAIM THREE**

22 **VIOLATION OF WASHINGTON CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

23 5.22. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations of this Complaint
24 contained in each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

25 5.23. Defendant violated the Washington Consumer Protection Act ("CPA").
26

1 5.24. Defendant engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices including, but not
2 limited to, the following:

3 a) engaging in acts and practices by willfully failing and refusing to timely
4 report information that reasonably suggested Roundup[®], like that used by
5 Plaintiff Michael Zech, may cause or contribute to cause cancer and other
6 serious illnesses;

7 b) representing knowingly or with reason to know that Roundup[®] has
8 approval, characteristics, uses, or benefits that it does not have;

9 c) representing knowingly or with reason to know that Roundup[®] is of a
10 particular standard, quality, or grade when it differs materially from that
11 representation; and/or
12

13 d) representing knowingly or with reason to know that Roundup[®] has uses,
14 benefits, or characteristics that have been otherwise proven incorrect;
15

16 5.25. Defendant's unfair and deceptive acts or practices described above were
17 committed in the course of Defendant's trade or commerce.

18 5.26. Defendant's unfair and deceptive acts or practices described above affected
19 public interest.
20

21 5.27. Defendant's violation of the Washington CPA, whether individually or in
22 combination, caused Plaintiff Michael Zech's injuries and damages set forth herein.

23 **VI. PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

24 6.1. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by reference, as though fully set forth at length,
25 each and every allegation and statement contained in the foregoing paragraphs.
26

6.2. Defendant is liable for punitive and/or exemplary damages under choice of law principles. Defendant acted with willful disregard of the rights of the Plaintiffs and the public. Defendant's conduct was outrageous and reckless toward the safety of the Plaintiffs and the public.

VII. DAMAGES

7.1. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by reference, as though fully set forth at length, each and every allegation and statement contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

7.2. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's tortious conduct and breach of duties as set forth herein, Plaintiff Michael Zech sustained serious injuries to include diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

7.3. The serious injuries sustained by Plaintiff Michael Zech are painful, permanent, and disabling, and have necessitated extensive medical care and treatment in the past and will continue to necessitate extensive medical care and treatment in the future.

7.4. As a direct and proximate result of his serious injuries, Plaintiff Michael Zech has sustained pain and suffering, both physical and mental, and with reasonable probability will continue to experience pain and suffering, both physical and mental, in the future.

7.5. As a further direct and proximate result of his injuries, Plaintiff Michael Zech has sustained disability, and loss of enjoyment of life, and will continue to sustain disability and loss of enjoyment of life in the future.

7.6. As a further direct and proximate result of his injuries, Plaintiff Michael Zech has sustained medical expenses, out of pocket expenses, and costs. With reasonable probability, he will continue to sustain medical expenses, life care expenses, and other out of pocket costs and expenses in the future as a result of his serious injuries.

1 7.7. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's tortious conduct and breach of
2 duties as set forth herein, Dawn Zech, spouse of Michael Zech, has sustained and will
3 continue to sustain a loss of consortium.

4 7.8. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be proved at trial, together
5 with interest thereon and costs.

6 7.9. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendant, and each of
7 them, as hereinafter set forth.
8

9
10 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment and relief against the Defendant as
12 follows:

13 8.1. General damages, in an amount to be proven at the time of trial;

14 8.2. Special damages to be shown at the time of trial, including all pre-judgment
15 interest allowed by law;

16 8.3. Punitive damages according to proof at the time of trial;

17 8.4. Treble damages in the maximum amounts permitted by RCW 19.86.090;

18 8.5. Costs including reasonable attorney's fees court costs and other litigation
19 expenses; and
20

21 8.6. Any other further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
22

23 **IX. JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

24 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all of the triable issues within this Complaint.
25
26

1 DATED this 23rd day of May, 2019.

2 SCHROETER, GOLDMARK & BENDER

3 s/ Sims G. Weymuller

4 s/ Elizabeth McLafferty

5 SIMS WEYMULLER, WSBA #33026

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